

The Prayer and the Praise of a Godly Mother

1 Samuel 1:9-18; 2:1-11

May 10, 2020

Happy Mother's Day! We pray that every Mom, every godly woman, has a blessed day. Our deepest desire is for each of us to find our greatest joy and satisfaction in the Lord. This morning, we examine the prayers and praise of Hannah, a godly woman found in the Old Testament.

Context: Historically, it serves as a transition or a bridge from the time of the Judges moving into the reign of Israel's first two Kings: Saul and David. Theologically, it serves to demonstrate Yahweh's unfailing commitment to the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It presents an emphasis on the presence of God as reflected in the Ark of the Covenant. Samuel was both a prophet and a judge. He would be used by God to minister to the people and to speak God's Word to both Saul and David.

The _____ prayers of an aching heart. (1 Samuel 1:9-18) Heaviness and sorrow was upon Hannah; she was seemingly forgotten by God and mocked by Peninnah. The great longing of her heart was to have a child, and it seemed as though the Lord would not grant this desire.

This prayer in chapter one contains the essence of real intercession and fervent prayer.

- _____ **to the will of God. (11)** This submission is seen in the way in which she repeatedly refers to herself as a "handmaiden." She makes no demand, but places herself in submission to God.
- _____ **with the purpose of God. (11)** She refers to God by the name "Yahweh" which is the covenant name of God given to His covenant people, Israel.
- _____ **in pleading with God. (15-16)** Some would fault those who get emotional when they pray, even criticizing their intent. However, often the matters we face and the circumstances we find ourselves in drive us to great passion and fervency!
- _____ **in continuing in prayer. (12)** This was no quick prayer given in some thoughtless act of emotion. This was the outpouring of a heart's desire that no doubt had been offered up in prayer many times.

God would use the closed womb of Hannah, and her pain of being childless, to accomplish something great in her life and in the whole plan of salvation. Even though things were hard and unknown to her at this time, God was still in charge. Though many couples today experience the same pain of childlessness, God has a plan and a purpose for something good - though not easy - in it all.

The _____ of praise for a Sovereign Lord. (1 Samuel 2:1-11) How often do we respond with praise and thanksgiving to God for His answered prayers? We are too often like the ten lepers who were healed: only one returned to give thanks! This prayer of praise can be divided into four segments:

- **The _____ of God. (1-3) "There is none holy as Jehovah."** Hannah praises God for His incomparable holiness and faithfulness; there is no one like our God!
- **The _____ of God. (4-5) "For Jehovah is a God of knowledge."** Hannah rebukes the words of the proud and the arrogant. God is the One who judges all actions.
- **The _____ of God. (6-8) "Jehovah kills and makes alive."** Hannah praises God for His omnipotent power and authority. He is the author, source, sustainer and judge of all life.
- **The _____ of God. (9-10) "He will keep the feet of his holy ones."** Hannah praises God for His steadfast faithfulness and protection. He keeps us from falling!

Hannah's song of praise also contains a prophetic word(10b). At this time there was no king, and yet she praises the One who would give strength to the king; but more significant is the phrase "exalt the horn of his anointed." Who is the anointed One? It is the Christ, the Messiah! All praise goes to the Lord, our Savior!